



The Beacon



By and for emergency responders

THE CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS

By L.Z. Johnson, Director

The U.S. Department of Justice officially established the Center for Domestic Preparedness at what was previously known as Fort McClellan, Alabama, on June 1st, 1998. The mission of the Center is to operate a federal training center to prepare emergency responders, emergency management, state, local and federal officials to respond to terrorist acts involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (chemical, ordnance/explosives, biological, radiological/nuclear (COBRA), and handle incidents involving hazardous materials.

Course Information

The Center offers training courses described in the following three tables. These training opportunities are provided to state and local responders at no cost. The Center centrally funds transportation, lodging, dining, and tuition. Course graduates receive Continuing Education credits from Auburn University. Because the training includes operations in a toxic environment, the following medical standards must be met:

1. Must have 20/100 vision uncorrected (contact lenses are permitted)
2. Blood pressure must not exceed 150/90
3. Must not be taking a narcotic medication

4. Must not have had a seizure in the last six months
5. Must never have been the victim of a heat stroke
6. Must have no sutures less than 3 days old
7. Must not vomit prior to training

WMD Emergency Responder (COBRA)

The WMD Emergency Responder (COBRA) Training Course is a 4-day training program designed to provide emergency responders operational level instruction on responding to and operating in a WMD environment. The course covers chemical, ordnance/explosive, biological, and radiological/nuclear (COBRA) threats; the current domestic and international terrorist threat; managing a WMD scene; determining the breadth of a WMD incident area; and dealing with the media at a WMD incident. In addition, it provides 20 hours of hands-on familiarization training with specialized protective clothing and equipment, chemical detection and identification equipment, decontamination, triage, and ordnance/explosive recognition and response. The course concludes with a multi-task, hands-on performance oriented training in the WMD [Toxic Agent] (COBRA) Training Facility.

Prerequisites: This course is designed for emergency responders who have completed WMD awareness level training. The target audience for this training is emergency responders in Fire Service, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Service, Emergency

Management and Emergency Communications. This course is not designed for Hazardous Materials technicians.

WMD Emergency Responder (COBRA)

Day 1	Enroute	Travel/In-Process
Day 2	Classroom Lanes Tng	Threat, Chemical, Radiological, Responder Skills, Phase I Hands-On Training
Day 3	Classroom Lanes Tng	Biological, Downwind Hazard Analysis, Response Actions, Responder Skills, Phase II Hands-On Training
Day 4	Classroom Lanes Tng	Phase II Hands-On Training, Federal Response Plan, Tactical Decisions
Day 5	Toxic Agent Training	Practical Exercise – Agent Detection and ID, Victim Evac, Cutout Procedures, Evidence ID, Collection-Preservation, Victim/Self Decon
Day 6	Enroute	Blood Draw/Graduation/Travel

WMD Hazardous Materials Technician (COBRA)

The WMD Hazardous Material Technician (COBRA) course, is a 3-day in-depth training course in the composition, action, identification, and decontamination of WMD agents that have the potential for use in a terrorist incident. This course also includes training in the preservation of evidence at a crime scene, an overview of the international and domestic terrorist threat, and a series of practical exercises involving WMD detection, identification, and protective equipment and techniques for operating at a WMD terrorist incident. This training course culminates with a multi-task, hands-on training exercise in the WMD [Toxic Agent] (COBRA) Training Facility.

Prerequisites: Hazardous Material Technicians attending this training must be certified as having successfully met the competencies outlined in OSHA 20 CFR 1910.120 and NFPA 472 for HAZMAT Technicians.

WMD Hazardous Materials Technician (COBRA)

Day 1	Enroute	Travel/In-Process
Day 2	Classroom	WMD Expert Presentations: Threat, Chemical, Bio, Radiological, Ordnance, FRP, Decision Making, Scene Management
Day 3	Mock City	Practical Exercise: Chemical Detection and ID Equipment, Victim Evacuation Evidence ID-Collection-Preservation; Decon
Day 4	Toxic Agent Training	Practical Exercise: Agent Detection and ID, Victim Evacuation, Cutout Procedures, Evidence ID-Collection-Preservation, Victim/Self Decon
Day 5	Enroute	Blood Draw/Graduation/Travel

WMD Incident Command (COBRA)

The WMD Incident Command (COBRA) Course is a 3-day in-depth training course in the composition, action, identification, and decontamination of WMD agents, which have the potential for use in a terrorist incident. This course also includes an overview of the international and domestic terrorist threat, tactical decision making, and federal support to state and local jurisdictions. This course is complemented with 18 hours of hands-on training including a tabletop interactive exercise involving WMD, COBRA response planning and execution at a terrorist incident. This training course culminates with a multi-task, hands-on training exercise in the WMD [Toxic Agent] (COBRA) Training Facility

Prerequisites: Emergency responders attending this training must be trained to the competencies outlined in OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 and NFPA 472 for Incident Commanders and they must have a complete understanding of the Incident Command and Unified Command System. The target audience for this training includes those command level responders in the Fire Service, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Service, Emergency Management, and Emergency Communications.

WMD Incident Command (COBRA)

Day 1	Enroute	Travel/In-Process
Day 2	Classroom	WMD Expert Presentations: Threat, Chemical, Bio, Radiological, Ordnance, FRP, Decision Making, Scene Management, Introduction to Exercise
Day 3	Classroom	Practical Exercise: Table Top Interactive; Incident Command & Emergency Ops, Tactical Decision Making
Day 4	Toxic Agent Training	Practical Exercise – Agent Detection and ID, Victim Evacuation, Cutout Procedures, Evidence ID-Collection-Preservation, Victim/Self Decon
Day 5	Enroute	Blood Draw/Graduation/Travel

For additional information on this program, visit the Center's web page at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/osldps/training_cdp.htm

OJP STATE GRANT PACKAGES

The Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides funds to states under the State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program for the purchase of specialized equipment for fire, emergency medical, hazardous materials response services, and law enforcement agencies. These funds will be used to enhance the capabilities of state and local units of government to respond to acts of terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The grant packages include two documents – a Statewide Needs Assessment and a Three-Year Statewide Domestic Preparedness Strategy. The Needs Assessment will require each state to assess its requirements for equipment, first responder training, and other resources involved in a WMD response. This Needs Assessment will form the basis of the Statewide Strategy. The Strategy will direct how states will target grant funds received under the OJP equipment program and provide OJP a guide on how to target first responder training and other resources available through OJP's

Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support.

To assist states in conducting their threat, risk and needs assessments, and developing their three-year strategy, OJP has developed an on-line data collection tool. This on-line tool was developed in close cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Centers for Disease Control. To guide users of the on-line tool, OJP is providing this Assessment and Strategy Development Tool Kit. The intent of the kit is to provide users with a step-by-step guide to which they can refer when the on-line tool becomes available.

States may begin registering users for the on-line data collection tool beginning **July 5, 2000**, in the first phase of the process. OJP will implement the second phase of the data collection process on **August 1, 2000**. At that time, software will be made available on-line for local data input. State agencies will be able to input data beginning **August 15, 2000**, when the third phase of the on-line process is implemented. Instructions for electronic submission of the data and statewide strategies using the Internet can be found on OJP's web page at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/osldps.

NEW TERRORISM RESPONSE TRAINING SITE DEVELOPED BY SAIC AND click2learn.com

Click2learn.com, inc., and Science Applications International Corporation's (SAIC) Emergency Medical Training and Preparedness Division announced the availability of chemical and biological terrorism response training on the Internet.

Starting immediately, emergency responders can obtain training on medical responses to chemical and biological terrorism through Train4Life.com, SAIC's new e-Learning web site. Train4Life.com provides customers with instant web-based access to online courses and tests on emergency response

topics such as anthrax and nerve agents. The new courses have also been added to click2learn.com's e-Learning Network course catalog, and can be accessed through the click2learn.com e-Learning portal through numerous custom-configured e-Learning sites used to provide e-Learning within corporations and professional portals.

The training curriculum features interactive multimedia instruction and audio, video, and text presentations that can be navigated at the student's own pace. Initial Train4Life.com offerings include modules of instruction on anthrax, nerve agents, blister agents, and smallpox. Modules also offer assessment and medical management of casualties exposed to these agents, appropriate self-protective measures, and background information such as agent history. The modules are accredited by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Service.

Additional information on the e-Learning Network can be found at www.click2learn.com.

UPCOMING WMD CONFERENCE

November 28-29, 2000
2nd National Symposium on Medical & Public Health Response to Bioterrorism
Mariott Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, DC

Sponsored by the Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense Studies, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

For information, visit the Johns Hopkins web site at <http://www.hopkins-biodefense.org>.

FEMA HAPPENINGS . . .

State and Local Terrorism Planning Guidance

FEMA comments have been received and incorporated within the draft **Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning (SLG 101), Chapter 6, Attachment G-Terrorism**. After further internal FEMA review the draft document will be circulated for comment among other Federal Departments and Agencies, including the Department of Justice.

Domestic Preparedness Training

The Training Division of the Preparedness, Training, and Exercise Directorate conducted the Interagency Emergency Management Courses in Los Angeles and Salt Lake City during April and May. Other sessions of these courses are scheduled for June and September 2000. In addition, the Training Division has initiated the development of an independent study course on Special Event Contingency Planning that will address terrorism issues. The course will be developed as an interactive CD-ROM and is scheduled for completion in January 2001.

BIO/CHEM TERRORISM: CDC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE REPORT IS NOW ONLINE

The CDC's Strategic Planning Workgroup, recently published a report, entitled *Preparedness and Response to Biological and Chemical Terrorism: A Strategic Plan (CDC unpublished report, 2000)*, which outlines steps for strengthening public health and health-care capacity to protect the U.S. against chem/bio dangers. The strategic plan marks the first time that the CDC has joined with law enforcement, intelligence, and defense agencies in addition to

traditional CDC partners to address a national security threat.

The report is available on the Internet at <http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr4904a1.htm>.

Editor's Note: Items published in *The Beacon* are for informational purposes for the emergency response community. The material submitted does not necessarily imply review and acceptance by the interagency community represented at the NDPO.

NDPO NEWSGROUPS

Don't forget to use the NDPO newsgroups on the Common Communication Link. The newsgroups are designed to promote the exchange of ideas on WMD training, exercises, information sharing, health/medical issues, equipment, and planning. There is also a newsgroup dedicated to swapping equipment and services. To set up your newsgroup subscription list, you may click on the "Newsgroup" link on the Law Enforcement Online homepage. This link will give you instructions to set up newsgroups on Microsoft Explorer and Netscape Communicator.

THE BEACON STAFF WELCOMES YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Do you have an idea for an article on domestic preparedness? Is your community working on a new WMD preparedness project? Why don't you share your thoughts and experiences with the rest of the emergency response community? *The Beacon* staff is dedicated to publishing useful and relevant information for the public safety sector. We welcome articles relating to all facets of WMD preparedness, including training, planning, exercises, equipment, health and medical, and

information sharing. We also welcome suggestions on improving the newsletter.

If you wish to contribute to *The Beacon*, please contact a member of the staff at the numbers/e-mail addresses listed below.

THE NDPO'S COMMON COMMUNICATION LINK

In recent months, the NDPO's Information Sharing Unit has received many inquiries about the Common Communication Link (CCL). The CCL is designed to assist state and local communities in their preparedness responsibilities through information sharing and communication.

The CCL is a communication and information resource standard, providing a common e-mail system, computer conferencing capability, news groups, community pages, and distance learning modules. The system also supports information relating to planning, grants, exercises, equipment, training, and health and medical matters. The system links users to WMD-related sites.

If you are an emergency responder interested in additional information, you may contact the NDPO at 202-324-9025 or email us at ndpo@leo.gov.

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